

**1. General rule.** When proposing a term or phrase as a new genre/form term, it may be necessary to use a parenthetical qualifier if the term or phrase has more than one dictionary definition. Add the qualifier to the term to indicate which of the several definitions is intended for the term in question.

**a. Names of disciplines.** In general, qualify the term by names of disciplines or topics.  
*Examples:*

Variations (Music)  
Video installations (Art)

**b. Categories of objects.** If the term designates a kind of object, qualify by the category to which the object belongs. *Examples:*

Playbills (Posters)  
Records (Documents)

**c. Commonly accepted meanings.** Do not add qualifier to a term used in its commonly accepted meaning even though it may also have other, obscure, meanings. For example, term **Yearbooks** need not be qualified because this is the commonly understood meaning of the term. The term for an obscure meaning for yearbooks, medieval English law reports, is established with a qualifier: **Year books (English law reports)**.

**2. Removing ambiguity or elucidating a term or phrase.** A parenthetical qualifier may also be used to remove ambiguity or to make more explicit a word or phrase that is obscure. A word or phrase is usually not considered to be obscure if it is found in a general English-language dictionary. *Examples:*

Galops (Music)  
Rosaries (Prayer books)

3. *Phrase headings v. qualifiers.*

**a. General rule.** In many cases, the parenthetical qualifier can be avoided by adding an adjectival qualifier to create a phrase instead. Prefer phrases of this type to parenthetical qualifiers. *Examples:*

Dance reviews  
[not Reviews (Dance)]

Dark comedy films  
[not Dark comedies (Motion pictures)]

Musical parodies  
[not Parodies (Music)]

**b. Special applications of a concept.** Do not add a parenthetical qualifier to a general concept to designate a special meaning of the genre or form. Create a phrase instead. *Examples:*

Bathymetric maps  
[not Maps (Bathymetry)]

Piano scores  
[not Scores (Piano)]